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BOROUGH OF ARUNDEL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer

of Health

1956

BOROUGH OF ARUNDEL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1956

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THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman

Alderman E.J. Herington, J.P.

Vice-Chairman

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The Mayor

Councillor G.H. Stevens, J.P.

Councillor R. Gibbons

Councillor L.B. Glossop

Councillor Miss M.E. Langford

Alderman A.G. Whittaker, J.P.

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

V.P. Geoghegan, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector, Surveyor and Engineer.

H.W. Simmonds, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B.

Clerical Staff

R.A. Pryke.

Mrs. B. Bernard-Smith.

Health Department,
Council Offices,
ARUNDEL.

October, 1957.

TO: His Worship The Mayor, Aldermen
and Councillors of the BOROUGH OF ARUNDEL.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Ninth Annual Report on the health of the Borough and the work of the Public Health Department during 1956.

The principal vital statistics for the year, together with comparative figures for 1955, are :-

	<u>Arundel Borough</u>		<u>England and Wales</u>	
	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
Estimated Home Population ..	2,640	2,650	44,667,000	44,441,000
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	15.15	13.58	15.7	15.0
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	14.77	14.33	11.7	11.7

In a small population fluctuations in annual birth and death rates are of no significance.

The continuing importance of Diphtheria Immunisation is stressed in Section VI of the report.

I wish to express my thanks to Members of the Council for their help, and to Mr. H.W. Simmonds, your Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, who has supplied most of the material for the report.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

V.P. Geoghegan
Medical Officer of Health.

Section I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

This small country town lying on the banks of the River Arun is a shopping centre for the surrounding villages.

The population finds employment in agriculture and its ancillary industries, on the Norfolk Estate and in the retail and catering trades encouraged by the increasing number of summer visitors.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	2,054
Registrar-General's Estimate of Home Population (1955 mid-year) ..	2,650
Registrar-General's Estimate of Home Population (1956 mid-year) ..	2,640
Number of inhabited dwellings.. ..	992
Rateable Value (1st January, 1957)	£44,079
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£ 169

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

ARUNDEL BOROUGH								BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION		
Total Number (after adjustment for transfers)						Birth Rate per 1,000 Population		West Sussex		England and Wales
Year	Total	Sex		Illegitimate		Crude	Corr.	Rural (Uncorrected)	Urban	
		M	F	No.	%					
1955	36	21	15	3	8.3	13.58	16.56	15.24	11.69	15.0
1956	40	18	22	Nil	-	15.15	18.48	14.92	13.34	15.7

Stillbirths

Total Number (after adjustment for transfers)				Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	Rate per 1,000 population
Year	Total	Sex			
		M	F		
1955	1	-	1	27.02	0.37
1956	1	-	1	24.39	0.37

Deaths

ARUNDEL BOROUGH						WEST SUSSEX		ENGLAND AND WALES
Total Deaths (after adjustment for transfers				Death Rates per 1,000 Population		Death Rates per 1,000 population (Uncorrected)		
Year	Total	Sex		Crude	Corr.	Rural Districts	Urban Districts	Death Rate per 1,000 population
		M	F					
1955	38	19	19	14.33	9.88	11.56	15.44	11.7
1956	39	17	22	14.77	11.07	13.78	14.71	11.7

The chief causes of death were:-

		<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
(i)	Diseases of heart and circulatory system	14	(9)
(ii)	Diseases of respiratory system	8	(6)
(iii)	Cancer	7	(10)

The above three causes accounted for 29 or 74% of the total deaths recorded during the year.

Of the total deaths, 25 or 64% occurred in persons aged 65 years or over, and 20 or 51% in persons aged 75 years or over.

A table showing the causes of death, ages and sex distribution, is set out on page 6.

No deaths occurred from the following causes:-

<u>R.G. List</u>	<u>Cause</u>	<u>R.G. List</u>	<u>Cause</u>
<u>No.</u>		<u>No.</u>	
4	Diphtheria.	27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.
5	Whooping Cough.	28	Nephritis and Nephrosis.
6	Meningococcal Infections.	29	Hyperplasia of prostate.
7	Acute Poliomyelitis.	30	Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion.
8	Measles.	31	Congenital malformations.
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases.	33	Motor Vehicle accidents.
13	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus.	34	All other accidents.
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	35	Suicide.
16	Diabetes.	36	Homicide and operations of war.
19	Hypertension with heart disease		
22	Influenza.		

Table of Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life
during the Year 1956.

R.G. List No.	CAUSES OF DEATH	Sex	All Ages	Y e a r s							
				1-	2-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85-
	All Causes	M	17	1	-	1	1	5	1	5	3
		F	22	-	-	-	4	2	4	5	7
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	M	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Tuberculosis, other	M	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Syphilitic diseases	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
10	Malignant Neoplasms, stomach	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
11	Ditto lung, bronchus	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
12	Ditto breast	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
		F	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
17	Vascular Lesions of nervous system	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	Coronary disease, angina	M	4	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-
		F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
20	Other Heart disease	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
		F	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
21	Other Circulatory Disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
23	Pneumonia	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
		F	4	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
24	Bronchitis	M	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory system	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	Other defined and ill- defined diseases	M	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
		F	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2

Maternal Mortality.

No deaths were registered as directly due to pregnancy or childbearing.

Infant Mortality.

Infant Deaths under 1 Year					Rates per 1,000 live births			
ARUNDEL BOROUGH					ARUNDEL BOROUGH	WEST SUSSEX		ENGLAND AND WALES
Year	Total	Sex		Illegit- imate		R.D's.	U.D's.	
		M	F					
1955	1	-	1	-	27.77	19.7	23.6	24.9
1956	Nil	-	-	-	-	19.	28.	23.8

Various Death Rates for England and Wales, and the Urban and Rural Districts of West Sussex, are shown in the following table of comparative statistics :-

	<u>England & Wales</u>	<u>West Sussex</u>		<u>Arundel Borough</u>	
		<u>Urban</u>	<u>Rural</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
Maternal Mortality					
Rate per 1,000 births	0.56	0.70	0.44	Nil	Nil
Pulmonary Tuberculosis					
Death Rate per 1,000					
population	0.11	0.06	0.06	0.37	0.37
Cancer Death Rate per					
1,000 population ..	2.07	2.56	2.40	2.65	3.77

Section II.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospitals.

The hospitals providing accommodation and treatment for residents of the Borough are administered by the South-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, and are as follows:-

St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester.
Royal West Sussex Hospital, Chichester.
Southlands Hospital, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Sussex Maternity and Women's Hospital, Brighton.
Zachary Merton Maternity Home, Rustington.
Aldingbourne House Sanatorium
Bognor Annex to Aldingbourne House.
Swandean Isolation Hospital, Worthing.
Arundel and District Hospital.
Worthing Hospital.

Laboratory Service.

Examinations carried out for this Authority by the Public Health Laboratories at Brighton and Portsmouth during 1956 were as follows:-

<u>Nature of Specimen.</u>	<u>Number Examined.</u>
Water	37
Milk	35
Faeces	1

Ambulances.

The Local Health Authority (the West Sussex County Council) provides an ambulance service with ambulances operating from Littlehampton.

Ambulances for the removal of infectious cases are stationed at Chichester, Bognor Regis, Worthing and Horsham.

Home Nursing and Midwifery.

The West Sussex County Council provides nursing services.

One District Nurse in Arundel is responsible for Home Nursing, Midwifery, School and Health Visiting duties.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Held at:

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres	-)	
Ante-Matal Clinics	-)	Arundel,
School Clinics (Minor Ailments)	-)	Chichester, and
Eye Clinics	-)	Littlehampton
Orthopaedic Clinic	-	Littlehampton
Speech Therapy Clinic	-	Littlehampton
Aural Clinic	-	Chichester
Chest Clinic	-	Aldingbourne House Sanatorium
Venereal Diseases Clinics	-	Worthing Hospital and St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

Section 47 and 50.

No action was necessary.

Section III

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply

No changes have been made to the water supply of the Borough which is provided by the Fitzalan-Howard Estates Ltd., from a borehole and well situated in Mill Road near Swanbourne Lake, and pumped unfiltered to a reservoir in Arundel Park.

Water consumed in the Borough is purchased at 10d. per thousand gallons.

All water is chlorinated at the Waterworks by the Corporation before distribution, and a constant supply is maintained to almost every house in the Borough. Only two isolated cottages depend on underground rainwater storage tanks for a water supply. The quantity of water available is estimated to be sufficient for the steady development of the district for many years to come.

The Chlorination plant consists of an Ammoniator (which was renewed during the year), Chlorinator and Reagent Feeder using Sodium Hypochlorite. Constant supervision of this plant by resident staff is maintained.

One new 3" main with a total length of 208 yards was laid by direct labour during the year with two new sluice valves.

Specimens of raw water from both the borehole and the well and of chlorinated water from consumers' taps were submitted for bacteriological examination at regular intervals. A total of 37 samples were submitted, and the following table gives details of the reports received:-

No. of Samples Submitted	Source	PATHOLOGIST'S REPORT			
		R a w W a t e r			Chlorinated Supply
		Satis- factory	Contamination Moderate	Marked	
12	Borehole	-	10	2	-
12	Well	4	7	1	-
13	Distribution Mains	-	-	-	13
37	TOTALS	4	17	3	13

Water Supply (Contd.)

Samples for full chemical, mineral and bacteriological examination of the raw water were also submitted for analysis. The Analyst reported that the water had changed little in the past two years. It was of satisfactory organic quality but showed bacterial impurity. It was, however, readily amenable to an efficient system of Chlorination to achieve a standard of bacterial purity appropriate to a public supply.

The 13 samples of chlorinated water taken from consumers' taps were found to be of satisfactory purity. The Bacterial quality of the water is therefore at most times dependent upon efficient chlorination. Interruption of chlorination is avoided as far as possible by careful supervision of the plant and its operation.

Water Statistics for the year ending 31st March 1956.

Water Consumption in the Borough.

	<u>Gallons</u>	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Per Day</u>
(1) Domestic and unmetered supplies	33,511,280	91,811
(2) Industrial and trade supplies by meter	<u>3,242,730</u>	<u>8,884</u>
Total for area of supply	<u>36,754,010</u>	<u>100,695</u>

Supplies through Corporation mains for Fitzalan-Howard Estates Ltd., under Water Agreement.

	<u>Gallons</u>	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Per Day</u>
(a) Tortington	520,140	1,425
(b) Lyminster	<u>22,288,850</u>	<u>61,065</u>
Totals	<u>22,808,990</u>	<u>62,490</u>

	<u>Gallons</u>	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Per Day</u>
Increased consumption of water supplied through Borough mains over 1955 to out-lying areas	2,221,540	6,087
Decreased consumption of water supplied by Corporation over the year 1955..	864,446	2,372
Maximum weekly consumption	918,340	gallons
Minimum weekly consumption	558,030	gallons

Water Supply (Contd.)

Gallons per head per day (exclusive of metered supplies)	..	..	..	..	33.4 gallons
Gallons per head per day (inclusive of metered supplies)	..	..	..	..	36.6 gallons
Number of metered supplies	..	..	..	..	38
Length of mains owned by the Corporation	..	..	..	..	6.30 miles
Estimated population supplied	..	..	..	..	2,750

During the year detection of misuse and waste of water continued. A number of defective appliances were found and rectified, and leaks remedied. There was only one major water main burst during 1956. Sundry maintenance works to valves, renewals of meters etc. were also carried out.

New Byelaws for the prevention of waste, misuse of water etc, were confirmed by the Minister and came into operation on the 19th April 1956.

Further amendments to these Byelaws were made by the Corporation and were awaiting the Minister's approval at the close of the year.

The Fitzalan-Howard Estates Ltd., have now installed an electrically driven unit capable of pumping some three or four times the volume of water previously raised per hour by the old diesel and petrol driven pumps. With a present hourly capacity of approximately 42,000 gallons pumping hours have been considerably reduced.

The old pumps remain as "standby" for an emergency.

This new installation has necessitated much adjustment of the Chlorination equipment which has been resited and retimed.

By agreement, the Corporation provide water to their Stewards Copse Housing Estate situated within the statutory supply area of the Bognor Regis Urban District Council.

For some time water pressure on the higher land to the west of the Borough has been inadequate when the Castle Park Reservoir (O.D.142) was low. This is due to the close relationship of the levels in these two areas.

Water Supply (Contd.)

The installation of the new pump at the Waterworks has, however, enabled more use to be made of the Herons Wood Reservoir (O.D.200) which is on much higher ground.

A scheme for supplying the West Arundel Area direct from this Reservoir has been approved by the Fitzalan-Howard Estates Ltd., and the Corporation. It is hoped this improvement will be completed early in 1957.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Council have two sewerage disposal works - a small works in Fitzalan Road on the south-east side of the river and the main works in Ford Road on the north-west side.

The sewers are partially separated. Some rain water is received into the sewage works, the remainder runs to separate sewers which discharge into the River Arun.

As in past years a few complaints of bad smells were received from residents in the neighbourhood of the Ford Road Sewage Works. Treatment of the sewage in the summer months with Sodium Hypochlorite is carried out at the detritus tank. This has proved satisfactory and only in heavy humid weather is there cause for complaint.

The sewage works are, however, very antiquated, being designed for chemical precipitation and sludge pressing - a method long since abandoned by Local Authorities. The sludge pressing machinery has not been used since about 1914. The volume of sewage increases each year with new houses being erected, together with improved sanitary appliances in the older houses. In addition, with the growth of the Torton Hill Estate, the works are rapidly becoming surrounded and are no longer isolated as they were when established.

The Fitzalan Road works were modified during the year.

Previously these works consisted of a settling tank from which the effluent was pumped into the river continuously, irrespective of tide conditions.

Drainage and Sewerage. (Contd.)

A new 5" cast iron pipe some 36' 0" in length has now been driven through the river bank and a penstock installed. This is now manually controlled. In addition the storage tank has been enlarged to cater for the additional 18 to 20 dwellings shortly to be connected with the system.

Two 6" private soil sewers, totalling some 430 yards were laid and linked to the Corporation's sewers. The Corporation laid no soil sewers during the year but some 50 yards of 6" storm water sewer was added to the system.

Owing to repeated blockages of the sewer in Ford Road, which is known to be particularly flat, a flush tank was installed at its end. It is hoped that by more adequate flushing the sewer will remain self cleansing.

Two of the few remaining earth closets in the Borough were converted to water closets, both now draining to the Corporation's sewers.

There are 8 premises still using bucket closets with soakaway drainage for sullage water, whilst 31 other premises have water carriage sanitation and either run to cesspools or soakaways. All these premises are situated in positions which make it impossible to connect to a sewer or where main drainage is not available.

Public Conveniences.

The Corporation owns two public conveniences - one on the Town Quay and the other in Mill Road.

Both are satisfactorily maintained.

Rivers and Streams.

No action was necessary to check pollution of rivers and streams in the area.

A varying number of vessels are moored to wharves on the River Arun. Two such vessels are used permanently for habitation.

Public Cleansing.

The collection of household refuse throughout the Borough is carried out weekly by the Corporation. Trade refuse is also removed by agreement.

The Council continued the salvaging of waste paper, textiles, etc. and the following materials were sold during 1956:-

	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Qrs.</u>	<u>Revenue</u>		
				<u>£.</u>	<u>s.</u>	<u>d.</u>
Baled Waste Paper	24.	16.	1.	157.	19.	-.
Non-ferrous metals		2.	2.	12.	15.	3.
Ferrous metals	1.	4.	2.	5.	7.	6.
Textiles		15.	2.	21.	9.	10.
	26.	18.	3.	£197.	11.	7.

The revenue from salvaged materials shows a decrease of £34. compared with the figure for the previous year, mainly due to the unfavourable market for waste paper.

Refuse tipping has been carried out during the year in the Old Quarry at Scotland Barn and the Canada Road site, both in the Tortington Parish of Chichester Rural District. In addition, a start was made in November on the Spring Ditch site situated within the Borough. Every effort has been made to carry out "controlled tipping", and one employee is engaged full time on the tip for this purpose. Unfortunately, until recently, the main tip has been some $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the town centre, which has slowed down collection and added to its running costs.

Tipping of earth is still permitted on the old tip in Canada Road, and is indeed welcomed, to help in levelling the surface. This tip is now nearly ready for proper levelling and grassing to convert it into the Playing Field so badly needed in this area.

Three full days per week are devoted to refuse collection and disposal, and with the erection since the war of 259 new houses, it will be appreciated that this essential service is gradually becoming a full time job for which men will have to be solely employed.

Every effort is made to keep under control the potential menace of flies and rats on the tips. They are sprayed with

"Gammaxane" for flies and regularly treated for rats.

The Council continued to give assistance to the West Sussex County Council in the clearance of snow and dealing with icy conditions on all roads in the Borough.

The Corporation has continued the scavenging of both County and District roads as well as the routine emptying of street gullies in the District Roads.

Shops Act 1950

Thirtytwo visits were made to shops under the above Act. As a result of these inspections ten defects were found, all of which were remedied by the end of the year.

The Council made an order, which will be effective in 1957, waiving the half day closing for a period of four months during the year.

Smoke Abatement

No action has been necessary in this direction.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Fleas.

One complaint of flea infestation was received. The house was inspected and sprayed with D.D.T. solution.

No evidence of bed bug infestation was reported or discovered.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

One site in the Borough is licenced for camping purposes under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. It comprises .715 of an acre, is licenced for three movable dwellings, and has a main water supply and dry conservancy sanitary facilities.

No formal action was necessary during the year.

The Corporation have not adopted Byelaws to control Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Swimming Baths.

There are no public swimming baths in use in the Borough.

Rats and Mice Destruction

The West Sussex No. 2 Workable Area Committee set up in 1944 has continued to meet quarterly in Littlehampton, the Public Health Inspector being the representative of the Borough on this Committee.

Complaints regarding rats are dealt with by the Council's part-time Rodent Operator. As a result of independent investigations and complaints received, only a few minor infestations were discovered and dealt with. No infestations were referred either to the Agricultural Executive Committee or to the West Sussex Rivers Board.

Council properties are regularly treated as a precautionary measure.

No test baiting of the sewers was carried out during 1956.

The part-time Rodent Operator attended a refresher training course arranged by the Ministry.

Schools.

No changes were made in the existing sanitary facilities at either of the two schools in the Borough during the year.

Factories Act, 1937.

There are thirty-seven factories and workplaces in the Borough, of which twenty-four are provided with mechanical power.

Visits to :

factories with mechanical power	..	26
factories without mechanical power	..	5
workplaces		1

Number of Defects :

Observed	..	..	..	5
Remedied	..	..	..	5

Section 34.

No certificates of 'adequate means of escape in case of fire' were issued during the year.

Summary of Visits and Inspections under Public Health and Housing Acts

Infectious Disease	..	..	..	9
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	2
Ice Cream Premises				2
Butchers' Shops and Slaughterhouse			..	148
Dairies	..	..	..	3
Other Food Premises	..	..	..	36
Shops Act	..	..	..	32
Tents, Vans and Sheds..		..	..	10
Offices	..	..	..	7
Marine Stores..	..	..	..	2
Public Conveniences	..	..	..	33
Water Supplies and Appliances..			..	172
Refuse Disposal Tips	..	..	..	55
Sewage Works	..	..	..	38
Building Byelaws	..	..	..	528
Dangerous Structures	..	..	..	19
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	101
Re-visits	..	..	..	189

Other Visits

Re Council House tenancies	..	..		70
District Roads	..	..	..	226
Street lighting	..	..	..	28
Petroleum Regulations		..	..	6
Town Planning	..	..	..	29
Advertisements	..	..	..	7
Civil Defence	..	..	..	5

Works and Improvements

Rooms disinfected after infectious disease				1
Dustbins provided	..	..	..	5
Drains tested	..	..	..	49
Drains re-laid	..	..	..	5
Drains cleared	..	..	..	10
New drains laid	..	..	..	44
Earth Closets converted to Water Closets				3
Premises connected to main drainage	..			28
Premises connected to water main	..			41

Summary.

Total number of :

Inspections made for all purposes	1,855
-----------------------------------	-------

Notices served:

(a) Informal	..	..	..	42
--------------	----	----	----	----

(b) Statutory	..	..	..	3
---------------	----	----	----	---

Complaints received	..	..	69
---------------------	----	----	----

Nuisances found and abated	..	53
----------------------------	----	----

Interviews:

Re (a) Building Byelaws	..	..	96
(b) Town Planning	..	..	68
(c) Housing	..	..	88
(d) Water	..	..	26
(e) District Roads	..	..	8
(f) Miscellaneous..	..	..	<u>95</u>
Total			<u><u>381</u></u>

Section V

Housing

The year was one of considerably activity and steady progress.

43 families were rehoused by the Corporation during the year, 18 into new dwellings and 25 to fill casual vacancies in existing houses.

In December the list of applicants for Council houses was reviewed at the direction of the Housing Committee. It then recorded 35 applicants, chiefly from persons residing or working within the Borough.

The sites for the 10 dwellings in the 1956 Scheme were levelled by Contractors early in the year.

Basic road works were executed in extension of Jarvis Road, thereby linking Canada and Chichester Roads, including the formation of grass sight splays and road widening at the junction with Chichester Road, A.27. The West Sussex County Council have extended their footpath in Chichester Road to meet the future path in Jarvis Road. In addition a bus layby has been provided at the stop in Chichester Road and pedestrian barriers erected at each end of the footpath leading from Chichester Road to Canada Road.

Seven telephone poles carrying overhead wires across the Jarvis Road sight splays were replaced by underground ducts.

In addition the final surfacing of the roads, formation of grass verges and the provision of footpaths has been carried out in Jarvis and Pearson Roads.

At the close of the year tenders were being invited for the final street works on the length linking Chichester and Canada Roads.

A scheme for the provision of six garages on land off Pearson Road was approved by the Corporation but has since been twice deferred by the Ministry owing to the financial position.

The Corporation has authorised the erection of 4 further dwellings in 1957. The Borough Surveyor was instructed to prepare

Housing (Contd.)

this scheme utilising a site at the southern end of Jarvis Road. The Scheme necessitates minor road works to open up the site and at the close of the year tenders were being invited for these works. The erection of these dwellings will, apart from a site for two houses in Canada Road, complete the comprehensive scheme approved a few years ago by the Ministry of Health for the Stewards Copse Estate. Land has been reserved for a future shopping site, a branch road off Jarvis Road, and for three Police Houses.

This Estate of approximately 26 acres, which up to 6 years ago contained nearly 20 acres of woodland now consists of some 154 dwellings.

Works of repair and maintenance to the Council's properties are carried out by direct labour, 4 men being permanently employed for this purpose.

The Housing Committee have given further consideration to raising the standard of their pre-war houses and the Borough Surveyor presented a detailed report on the subject. The basic standard aimed at was that provided in the post-war houses.

The matter was deferred for consideration of the financial aspect of the proposed improvements but it seems that the prospects of a commencement of such works in the near future are favourable.

Summary of Housing Accommodation administered by the Corporation.

Set out herewith are details of accommodation administered by the Corporation as at 31st December, 1956:-

Council Houses:

Erected pre-war	..	..	81	
Erected post-war	..	..	<u>160</u>	241
Almshouses	..	..	6	
Miscellaneous	..	..	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>
			Total	<u>249</u>

Housing (Contd.)

Other works carried out on the Stewards Copse Housing Estate have included the culverting of some 50 yards of open ditch in 12" pipes and the laying of some 75 yards of 6" storm water sewer. These works have been effected by direct labour.

Four chimney fires were reported by the Fire Brigade at Council Houses. Three claims were made on the Council's Insurance Company in respect of damage caused by the fires.

Private Housing.

A considerable number of works of alterations, repair and improvement of the older houses has again taken place.

Since the war the Corporation have acquired 20 sub-standard houses with the object of demolition. Of these no less than 18 have now been demolished, one let as a stores and the other remains occupied.

Rehousing of families from sub-standard houses, where either Demolition or Closing Orders under the Housing Acts have been made, has resulted in 10 families comprising 21 persons being rehoused into new dwellings during the year.

The Corporation has endeavoured to continue an effective policy of demolition and closing of houses in such a condition as to be unfit for human habitation. During the past 8 years 32 such houses have been demolished in the Borough and a further 11 closed. In addition 3 Closing Orders have been revoked by the execution of works to modernise such houses.

A summary of the position re sub-standard houses at the end of 1956 was as follows:-

Demolition Orders:

Undertakings to recondition accepted	3
Undertakings to use only as stores accepted	2
Still occupied	3
Standing empty	4

Closing Orders:

Undertakings not to relet accepted	1
Still occupied	2
Standing empty	4

Private Housing (Contd.)

During the year 2 Demolition Orders were revoked after modernisation of the houses and undertakings accepted in respect of 3 other premises, works of which were in hand in respect of one such house at the close of the year.

The Corporation informed the Minister of Housing and Local Government in August 1955 that they proposed dealing with 40 sub-standard houses in the following 5 years. So far 18 such dwellings have been dealt with in this manner, as follows:-

Closing Orders:

Orders made	..	..	..	..	7
Houses closed	..	..	..	..	5
Families rehoused..	..	..	..	..	3
Still occupied	..	..	..	..	2

Demolition Orders:

Orders Made	..	..	..	..	11
Houses closed	..	..	..	..	9
Families rehoused..	..	..	..	..	4
Still occupied	..	..	..	..	2
Orders revoked	..	..	..	..	2
Undertaking to recondition accepted	..	..	..	..	3

Improvement Grants.

Little interest has been apparent in the Government's scheme of Improvement Grants under the Housing Acts. The scheme being optional, the Corporation's policy had for some time been that of complete refusal. This policy was reconsidered during the year and one application approved.

Apart from two or three casual enquiries regarding such grants only three applications were received during the year. Two were refused and one approved.

New Houses.

(a) Private:

Eleven houses were completed by private enterprise and a further 21 dwellings were under construction at the end of the year.

New Houses.

(a) Private (Contd.)

Works in connection with private houses have produced the first post-war privately constructed road in the Borough - Anne Howard Gardens.

(b) Council Houses.

Eighteen dwellings were erected with two further houses under construction. The 18 dwellings completed consisted of eight 2 bedroomed flats and ten 3 bedroomed houses. The two houses under construction were 3 bedroomed houses - the last of the 1956 scheme.

Requisitioned Property.

All properties previously requisitioned by the Corporation were released by the end of 1950.

Housing Statistics

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	97
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	292
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses included under sub-heading (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.	22
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	157
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	8
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading), found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	61

Housing Statistics (Contd.)

2. Remedying of defects during the year without service of formal notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority .. 51

3. Remedying of defects during the year with service of formal notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of formal action taken by the Local Authority 1

4. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9-13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(i)	Demolition Orders made	..	..	..	6
(ii)	Houses demolished	..	..	..	4
(iii)	Closing Orders made	..	..	..	2
(iv)	Houses closed	..	..	..	6
(v)	Closing Orders revoked	..	..	..	1
(vi)	Section 5 Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954:				
	Undertakings accepted	..	..	..	5
	Demolition orders revoked	..	..	..	2
	Work in progress	..	..	..	1

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(i)	Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	..	..	..	-
(ii)	Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:				
	(a) By owners	..	..	..	1
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	..	..	..	-

5. Housing Act 1936 - Overcrowding.

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	..	..	..	5
-----	-----	--	----	----	----	---

Housing Statistics

5. Housing Act 1936 - Overcrowding (Contd.)

(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein ..	5
(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein ..	40
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported	-
(c) (i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	6
(d)	Number of cases in which dwelling houses again became overcrowded after Local Authority had taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.	-

Civil Defence.

A separate Committee deals with Civil Defence matters. The Borough Surveyor is Civil Defence Officer and Controller designate; the Headquarters Section is under the control of the Mayor, Councillor G.H. Stevens, J.P.

The position of Evacuation and Billeting Officer is still vacant - Mr. T.A. Healey resigning during the year.

The Head Warden for the Borough is Mr. F.E. Langston.

Training courses for Headquarters, Wardens, Welfare were held during the year.

Section V.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

All farms in the Borough are supplied with mains water. The position at the end of the year was as follows:-

Number of farms in the Borough	..	..	..	6
Number actually producing milk	..	..	..	3
Number of Dairymen (Milk Sellers)	..	..	..	3
Number of inspections made of Milk Shops	..	..	..	3
Number of contraventions found	..	..	..	Nil

Milk Sampling.

Thirty-five samples of Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested milks were taken during the year. The results were as follows:-

Designation	Number of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory (Methylene Blue Test)
Pasteurised	19	19	-
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	11	10	1
Tuberculin Tested	5	4	1
TOTALS	35	33	2

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1949 to 1954.

The following Supplementary Licences were granted during 1956 :-

(a) Tuberculin Tested Milk	..	..	..	3
(b) Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk	..	..	..	1
(c) Pasteurised Milk	..	..	..	5
(d) Sterilised Milk	..	..	..	2

Milk Supply (Contd)

The Borough was included in a "Specified Area" as from the 1st April 1954. The effect of the Order defining this Specified Area is to make illegal the sale in the Borough of any milk which is not designated i.e. Sterilised, Pasteurised or Tuberculin Tested. In fact, no undesignated milk has been sold in the town for some years.

Meat and Other Foods.

One private slaughterhouse is licenced in the Borough.

The following table gives the number of animals killed and inspected at the Slaughterhouse during the year, together with details of the number of carcasses affected with various diseases:-

	Cattle exclud. Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	43	1	67	137
Number inspected	43	1	67	137
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	19	-	-	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	46.5	-	-	0.72
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.33	-	-	0.72

Meat and Other Foods (Contd.)

No carcasses were affected with Cysticercosis.

Eighty-one visits were made to the slaughterhouse for meat inspection purposes. The quality of the animals slaughtered has been very high as may be noted from the following items which were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

18	Ox Livers	-	Distomatosis
1	Ox Liver	-	Tumours
1	Ox Head and Tongue	-	Tuberculosis
1	Ox Heart	-	Pericarditis
1	Pigs Liver	-	Necrosis
1	Pigs Head, Lungs and Mesentery	-	Tuberculosis

Total weight of meat condemned - 319 lbs.

Unsound food at the Slaughterhouse is coloured and taken by a Portsmouth firm of fertiliser manufacturers.

Periodic inspections of butchers' shops and vehicles have been carried out during the year, and the following item, weighing 72 lbs. was surrendered and condemned:-

1 part hindquarter of Argentine Beef - Bone Taint.

Details of inspections carried out during the year are as follows:-

(a)	Butchers' Shops	67
(b)	Vehicles	2

No sanitary defect was found.

Slaughter of Animals Acts 1933 to 1954

Seven renewal licences to slaughter animals were granted by the Corporation during 1956.

No new licenses were issued.

Food Premises

Byelaws concerning the "Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air" have been made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. These were confirmed by the Ministry of Food on the 14th June 1950.

There are 67 food premises in the Borough, details of which are as follows:-

Bakehouses	..	..	..	2
Butchers Shops	..	..	..	4
Catering Establishments	..	..	..	14
Chemists	..	..	..	2
Confectioners..	..	..	..	9
Dairies	..	..	..	2
Fishmongers	..	..	..	2
Greengrocers	..	..	..	3
Grocers	..	..	..	12
Licenced premises	..	..	..	16
Corn Stores	..	..	..	1

Forty-three visits of inspection were made to food premises during the year in addition to the figures already recorded for the Slaughterhouse and Butcher's Shops. Generally, the cafes and food shops maintain a high standard of cleanliness.

Four defects were observed and remedied by informal action.

Food Condemned at Food Shops.

The following items of food stuffs, weighing a total of 160 lbs. were found to be unfit for human consumption and condemned:-

5 tins Corned Beef
2 tins Sheep Livers
2 tins Pineapples
6 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. Nuts.
50 lbs. Macaroni.
11 lbs. Baking Powder
3 lbs. Custard Powder
18 - 2 oz. jars Meringue liquid
3 - 2 oz. jars Sauce
18 - 2 oz. jars Soup (mixed)
1 chicken.

Bakehouses

There are two bakehouses in the Borough.

Four visits were made to these premises and one defect observed, which was remedied by informal action.

Ice Cream

Twenty-one premises in the Borough are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the sale of ice cream. No ice cream is manufactured in the Borough. Other vendors visit the district offering for sale ice cream manufactured elsewhere.

The results of ice cream samples taken by the Food and Drugs authority for fat content are not available for inclusion in the report.

Fried Fish Shop

Visits of inspection were made to the one Fish Frying Establishment in the Borough. Satisfactory conditions are maintained and no complaints have been received.

Mortuary

The Corporation own and maintain a mortuary which is situated in Ford Road adjoining the Cemetery. The building is well equipped and kept in a satisfactory condition.

Petroleum and Carbide.

Ten licences for the storage of petroleum spirit were issued during 1956, and six visits of inspection were made for this purpose. The storage arrangements of the applicants were satisfactory. One licence was surrendered during the year. The tank was filled with water and soluble oil, dismantled and sealed to avoid fire risk.

No licences for the storage of carbide were issued.

Dangerous Structures - Public Health Act, 1936 - Sec.58.

Informal Notices regarding the repair or renewal of seven

Dangerous Structures - Public Health Act, 1936 - Sec.58(Contd.)

dangerous buildings or structures were served during the year and entailed 19 visits. One notice remained outstanding at the close of the year.

Street Lighting.

The Corporation is responsible for street lighting in the Borough and operates 143 street lamps illuminated by gas. During the year, seven lamps were added to the lighting system and two lamps were resited to give improved lighting.

Eight lamps were damaged during the year by motor traffic.

Twenty-eight visits of inspection in regard to street lighting were made during the year.

The Corporation has a seven year contract with the South Eastern Gas Board for street lighting which was renewed as from 1st April 1952.

Food Adulteration.

The West Sussex County Council is the Authority responsible for the Food Adulteration Sections of the Food and Drugs Act 1955. Details of the samples taken in the Borough are not available for inclusion in the report.

Water Cress.

Visits of inspection were made to the watercress beds in the Borough and no complaints were received during the year.

Section VI.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF DISEASES.

During the last few years the public have had their attention effectively drawn to certain vital statistics. Scarcely any adult who can read a daily newspaper will have failed to notice that the number of deaths from Cancer in this country is steadily increasing, and that there appears to be some correlation between excessive cigarette smoking and the development of cancer of the lung. These are facts - there is a general increase in cases and deaths from cancer and there is some correlation between excessive smoking and cancer of the lung - but they are facts which should not be examined in isolation. They are part of the very complex pattern of mortality and that pattern is changing over the years in a quite remarkable way. Over 17,000 people died of cancer of the lung in 1955 in England and Wales compared to 10,661 in 1947. An alarming increase? But 23,000 people died of Tuberculosis in 1947, and only 6,500 died of this disease in 1955. A resounding victory over an age long scourge?

The birth rate since 1900 has been practically halved (15 per 1,000 in 1955, 29.9 per 1,000 in 1900), but the infant mortality rate has been reduced in the same period from 153 children per 1,000 live births to 25 - 128 more children out of every 1,000 born alive survive to the end of the first year. And what do they survive for? What will be their eventual fate? Not many of them will die of tuberculosis, scarcely any will die of diphtheria, scarlet fever or typhoid. A few will fall victims of poliomyelitis, some will smoke too much perhaps and die of cancer of the lung, some will be killed on the roads (but more will be killed in accidents at home), and the vast majority will survive to a ripe old age and die either of cancer or of degenerative disease.

The study of vital statistics is a fascinating one and the most striking fact which emerges from a survey of the last half century is that the pattern is changing. Over the last ten years the significance of the different components which make up the statistical picture has changed. The birth rate tends to decrease, more of the babies born survive to grow up, more adults survive to become aged, but the overall death rate stays fairly steadily between 11 and 12 per 1,000.

The inescapable consequence of a falling birth rate and a steady or slowly falling death rate is a population in which the average age rises and in which the proportion of young and active

Prevalence and Control of Diseases (Contd.)

workers falls while that of the aged rises. The old have to be supported by the young, whether in the family or in the state as a whole, and each individual wage earner bears a responsibility, which must progressively increase, to contribute to the support of the aged.

The infectious diseases which caused so many deaths in the nineteenth century and in the early part of this century have been reduced to unimportant incidents, first by improved environmental hygiene, later by direct attack on the diseases themselves. Preventive medicine consequently is gradually changing its attack. The bacterial enemies of man are not defeated, but they have been so effectively controlled that the field has been left more open to the degenerative diseases and to cancer - these are both conditions arising very largely in later life. Every baby who survives the perils of his first year is one more child exposed to the accidents of childhood. Every adolescent prevented from dying from tuberculosis, pneumonia or typhoid, helps to swell the ranks of the adults who will die of cancer, coronary thrombosis or cerebral thrombosis. It is towards these conditions that research is being more and more concentrated now, and in this field lies the future of preventive medicine.

In the Borough in 1956, twenty-nine cases of infectious disease were notified of which 27 were cases of Measles.

No case of Diphtheria has been notified in the Borough since 1945, but it is still necessary to remind parents to have their children protected by immunisation against this disease. The danger of any child catching diphtheria at the present time may be small, but this danger will progressively increase over the years if the level of protection continues to fall.

Cancer.

Seven deaths (1 male, 6 female) were attributed to Cancer during the year (10 in 1955).

The Cancer Death Rate for 1956 is 2.65 per 1,000 of the estimated home population, compared with a rate of 3.77 for the previous year. Corresponding rates for the Administrative County and the Urban and Rural Districts of West Sussex are 2.50, 2.56 and 2.40 respectively.

Smoking and Cancer of the Lung.

In view of the general interest in the subject, a summary of the Medical Research Council's report, and some comments thereon, are reproduced as an Appendix at the end of this Section.

Diphtheria.

(a) Notifications. No cases of Diphtheria were notified during 1956, nor were any deaths registered as due to this cause.

(b) Immunisation. Forty-five children under five years of age, and ten children over five but under fifteen years, received a complete course of protective immunisation in 1956. In addition, twenty-seven children received 'follow-up' injections.

Food Poisoning.

No notifications of food poisoning were received during the year, but this does not necessarily mean that there were, in fact, no cases. Food poisoning is still a very common complaint, but for every case notified dozens, possibly hundreds, of cases occur which are unrecorded because they are mild and therefore not medically treated.

Three points emerge from experience over recent years. Firstly, the simple habit of washing the hands after using the lavatory and also before actually handling any food is far from universal. For this, the newspapers and the B.B.C. are in part to blame, because although Medical Officers have for many years been trying to educate the public in this simple rule of hygiene, there is some strange restraint which prevents the advice appearing in the press. If the newspapers and the B.B.C. would state simply and plainly "Food Poisoning would be eliminated in this country if everyone made a practice of always washing their hands after using the lavatory", and if the public accepted this, the result would be far reaching. References to "faulty personal hygiene" or to "washing at the proper times" are useless because no one will admit even to himself that his standards of hygiene fall short of the ideal. But how many people do, in fact, wash their hands every time and, what is even more important, teach this habit to their children from early childhood?

Perhaps the public do not feel sufficiently concerned about food poisoning to care; could the fact that Poliomyelitis is also transmitted by contaminated fingers jolt them into doing this simple thing?

Food Poisoning (Contd.)

Secondly, the practice in catering establishments of cooking meat one day, carving it and then keeping it overnight before reheating and serving it a day later is universally condemned but persists. Unless very comprehensive cooling and cold storage arrangements are available, this routine provides ideal conditions for outbreaks of food poisoning.

Thirdly, there is a disease called, for want of a better name, Epidemic Vomiting, which gives rise to a surprising number of cases particularly in boarding schools, hospitals and other relatively closed communities (but not by any means sparing ordinary family households). The causative organism has not been identified and the foods likely to transmit it have not yet been incriminated. Sudden, almost explosive, outbreaks of sickness usually at night and especially in children will run through a school or hospital within twenty-four hours and all investigations are negative. Fortunately it is of short duration and a relatively minor upset as far as the individual is concerned.

Measles.

Twenty-seven cases were notified (39 in 1955), of which 25 were received during the months of March, April and May.

Poliomyelitis.

Although no cases were notified in the Borough, two cases occurred and were notified in parts of the town which technically lie in adjoining districts.

Identification of the virus causing Poliomyelitis in the intestinal canal both of cases and of individuals entirely unaffected by it gives renewed emphasis to the paramount importance for every person in the community always to wash their hands after using the lavatory. Infinitely more would be done towards effective control of the disease by advising the public on this point daily than by publishing daily figures of the number of cases which have occurred in this town or that town.

Tuberculosis.

No primary notifications of Tuberculosis were received during 1956, but two deaths were recorded as due to this cause (1 Pulmonary, 1 Non-Pulmonary).

Tuberculosis (Contd.)

B.C.G. Vaccination.

Late in the year the West Sussex County Council initiated routine skin testing of school children from 13 years of age upwards. Parents of such children are asked if they agree to a preliminary skin test to be followed by B.C.G. vaccination in the case of non Reactors, and by a chest X-ray in the case of the reactors. Between 20-25% of the children so far tested proved to be reactors indicating a previous or present active tuberculous infection.

It has been said with some truth that the population of this country can be broadly divided into those who have had Tuberculosis and those who are going to get it. The Tuberculin Skin test (the Mantoux test) is a means of making this division; positive reactors have either had some previous Tuberculous infection or are actually suffering from active disease at the time of the test. In the case of children, these reactors are X-rayed to exclude present disease. They are relatively resistant to future infections though not necessarily immune.

The non reactors are given an injection into the skin of the arm of B.C.G. vaccine. This is a specially prepared culture which has lost its power of causing tuberculous disease in man but has retained its protective power. Its effect is to cause a small local reaction (similar to that in smallpox vaccination) which increases the individual's resistance to tuberculous infection in the future and converts their reaction to the skin test. They become reactors.

Generally speaking most people, as a result of Tuberculous infections met and successfully overcome, are positive reactors by the age of 25 to 30, and as a result are relatively resistant to future infections. It is to accelerate this resistance in adolescents not already reactors that the B.C.G. campaign has been initiated in school children.

The following table gives details of the number of cases on the notification register at the end of the year :-

		Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total Cases		
		M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1	Number on Register at 1.1.56.	4	7	11	1	2	3	5	9	14
2	Primary Notifications-1956	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Transfer Cases	1	1	2	-	-	-	1	1	2
4	Restorations to Register	1	-	1	1	-	1	2	-	2
	TOTALS	6	8	14	2	2	4	8	10	18
5	Cases removed - 1956	2	2	4	1	-	1	3	2	5
6	Number on Register at 31.12.56	4	6	10	1	2	3	5	8	13

Whooping Cough

One case of Whooping Cough was notified during the year (4 in 1955).

Other Diseases

No notifications were received during the year of the undermentioned diseases :-

Cholera	Malaria	Poliomyelitis
Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Puerperal Pyrexia
Dysentery	Meningococcal	Relapsing Fever
Encephalitis(Acute)	Infections	Scarlet Fever
Enteric Fever	Ophthalmia	Smallpox
Erysipelas	Neonatorum	Tuberculosis
Food Poisoning	Plague	Typhus Fever

Table showing Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during the Year 1956.

Disease	Cases Notified			Age Distribution									Total
	M	F	Total	Age Distribution									
				0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	
Measles	17	10	27	1	-	4	1	5	15	1	-	-	27
Pneumonia	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Whooping Cough	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
TOTALS	18	11	29	1	-	4	1	5	16	1	1	-	29

Details of Notifications received of Measles, Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough since 1947.

Disease	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Measles	2	17	52	7	127	7	61	-	39	27
Scarlet Fever	3	2	6	14	-	8	2	7	4	-
Whooping Cough	-	30	-	1	44	-	5	39	4	1

A P P E N D I X.

SMOKING AND CANCER OF THE LUNG.

The Medical Research Council has issued a long statement on this subject and the Government, in supporting the Council's conclusions, has asked local health authorities (County and County Borough Councils) to take steps to bring to the notice of the public the added risk of developing Cancer of the lung to which heavy cigarette smoking may give rise, and in particular, to discourage young people from starting the habit.

The Medical Research Council's report gives the following figures :-

The death rate from lung cancer over the 25 years up to 1950 increased greatly and has continued to rise since then. In the ten years 1945-1955 it has doubled (388 deaths per million of the population in 1955, 188 per million in 1945). In males the disease is now responsible for about 1 in 18 of all deaths, and in females 1 in 103.

The report concludes that the figures must be accepted as representing in the main a real rise in the incidence of the disease and not merely an apparent one due to better methods of diagnosis. Furthermore, the past trend indicates that the incidence will continue to rise in the future, and only a small part of the rise can be attributed to the larger numbers of old people now living in the population.

In seeking a cause for the rapid increase in lung cancer attention was focussed on two main factors - (1) the smoking of tobacco, and (2) atmospheric pollution whether from homes, factories or the internal combustion engine.

Two types of special inquiry have been made with regard to smoking. In the first, patients with lung cancer have been interviewed and their previous histories in relation to smoking and other factors have been compared with those similarly obtained from patients without lung cancer. The results of nineteen such inquiries have been published in different countries and they agree in showing more smokers and fewer non-smokers among lung cancer patients, and a steadily rising mortality as the amount of smoking increases.

In the second type of inquiry, information on the smoking habits of each member of a defined group was obtained first and the causes of deaths occurring subsequently in that group were ascertained. (This inquiry was made in this country on 40,000 members of the medical profession, and an inquiry on similar lines in the United States covered 190,000 men aged 50-69 years).

This investigation, in this country, has been in progress for more than five years and has shown with regard to lung cancer in men :

- (1) A higher mortality in smokers than non-smokers.
- (2) A higher mortality in heavy smokers than light smokers.
- (3) A higher mortality in cigarette smokers than pipe smokers.
- (4) A higher mortality in those who continued smoking than in those who gave it up.

Heavy cigarette smokers (i.e. those who smoke in excess of 25 cigarettes per day) who continue the habit have a death rate nearly 40 times the rate among nonsmokers.

1 in 300 nonsmokers will die of lung cancer - 1 in 8 of lifelong heavy cigarette smokers will do so.

Heavy smokers who give it up even in their early forties may reduce their likelihood of developing the disease by at least a half.

The excess of deaths from lung cancer in smokers was not compensated for by any corresponding reduction in the number of deaths from cancer of other parts of the body. In other words there is a total incidence of cancer in smokers in excess of the incidence in nonsmokers.

The report then goes into the possible chemical reasons for smoking giving rise to cancer and the fact that small amounts of known carcinogens (cancer causers) are present in tobacco smoke.

Atmospheric pollution as a possible factor is considered, and the known fact that the mortality from lung cancer is greater in towns than in the country is mentioned. Higher death rates from lung cancer among nonsmokers in towns than among nonsmokers in rural areas have been found on investigation. On balance it seems that atmospheric pollution plays a part but a relatively minor part compared with smoking.

The report concludes by pointing out that knowledge of the subject is incomplete and other factors are under investigation, but the evidence incriminating smoking, and in particular heavy cigarette smoking, as an important causal factor is very strong.

The Council's conclusions are summarised as follows :-

1. A very great increase has occurred during the past 25 years in the death rate from lung cancer in Great Britain and other countries.
2. A relatively small number of the total cases can be attributed to specific industrial hazards.

3. A proportion of cases, the exact extent of which cannot yet be defined, may be due to atmospheric pollution.
 4. Evidence from many investigations in different countries indicates that a major part of the increase is associated with tobacco smoking particularly in the form of cigarettes.
In the opinion of the Council the most reasonable interpretation of this evidence is that the relationship is one of direct cause and effect.
 5. The identification of several carcinogenic substances in tobacco smoke provides a rational basis for such a causal relationship.
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C O M M E N T.

"The most reasonable interpretation of this evidence is that the relationship is one of direct cause and effect". The whole matter is still one of statistical correlation; there is no doubt that cancer of the lung occurs more frequently in heavy cigarette smokers - but there are other very wide issues involved.

I hesitate to criticize the findings of the Medical Research Council but I feel - without quarrelling at all with their conclusions - that isolated pieces of statistical information like this should not be publicised without some attempt to fit them in to the general pattern of mortality.

The change in Tuberculosis mortality is particularly striking and it is very much concerned with the potential cancer of the lung victims. The relationship between smoking and Tuberculosis has been very little explored. Do more, or less, smokers get Tuberculosis? It is possible that the decrease in Pulmonary Tuberculosis is in itself a factor in the increase in cancer of the lung, in that the very people who do not now die of Pulmonary Tuberculosis are, generally speaking, of the age which makes them potential victims of lung cancer.

Furthermore, the mortality from cancer generally and from other causes, particularly degenerative conditions of the heart and circulatory system, are all part of the changing pattern of mortality.

In the following tables illustrating the changes which are taking place, the larger figures, reproduced from official publications, have been approximated to the nearest thousand :-

England and Wales
Numbers of Deaths from certain Infectious Diseases

Disease	1900-1910 (Annual Average)	1947	1955
Tuberculosis	56,000	23,000	6,500
Diarrhoea, etc.	20,000	6,000	1,000
Whooping Cough	10,000	900	88
Influenza	7,000	3,000	2,900
Diphtheria	6,000	242	13
Scarlet Fever	3,600	42	21
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	3,000	29	15
Poliomyelitis	-	688	270
TOTALS	105,600	33,901	10,807

England and Wales
Number of Deaths attributed to some of the principal causes.

	1947	1952	1955	Increase
Diseases of heart and circulatory system	164,000	182,000	192,000	+ 28,000
Cancer (all sites)	78,000	86,000	89,000	+ 11,000
(Lung Cancer	10,661	14,200	17,200	+ 6,600)
Vascular lesions of nervous system	58,000	69,000	74,000	+ 16,000
Tuberculosis	23,000	10,500	6,500	(- 16,500)
Home Accidents	4,700	5,226	6,651	+ 2,000
Road Accidents	4,415	4,117	4,923	+ 500

Over the years 1947 to 1955 the death rate has not altered perceptibly (11.7 to 11.8 per thousand) - the same number of people die, but they don't die in infancy so much, they don't die of childhood infections so much, but they do die eventually - as they must. They die older, and cancer is a disease of older people. As fewer children die in infancy, more survive to die from burns and scalds; as more people escape Tuberculosis - more die of Cancer of the Lung.

There can be no doubt that statistical evidence points very strongly to a connection between heavy cigarette smoking and lung cancer, and anyone who smokes should know of this and decide whether he is prepared to take any action himself. Whether the evidence is such as to justify repressive action against smoking is a matter of opinion.